

shorebirds indicated, there are at least three more species of small size present in the combined Academy and Museum collections.

Rissa tridactyla? A coracoid from the Academy excavation compares perfectly with a modern specimen of this species, but in view of the overlapping which occurs among the species of gulls, the identification is tentative.

Larus brachyrhynchus? A humerus, no. G647 from Museum pit 16 previously mentioned by Loye Miller (Condor, 32, 1930, p. 117) as *Larus* sp., is found to coincide with *brachyrhynchus* in size.

Cryptoglaux acadica. Tarsometatarsus no. K1180 from Museum pit 36.

The following species which were previously recorded tentatively are now definitely identified.

Anser albifrons. Several very stocky tarsometatarsi and femora in the Academy and Museum collections are undoubtedly of this species. Judging from size, the full range of the species from *A. a. albifrons* through *A. a. gambelii* is represented.

Anas platyrhynchos; *Nettion carolinense*. Well represented in both Academy and Museum pits.

The status in the Los Angeles collections of species which have been recorded from University localities since the last general review of Rancho La Brea birds (Miller, L., Carnegie Inst. Wash. Publ. 349, 1925, pp. 63-106, 6 pls., 20 text figs.) is as follows.

Spatula clypeata? (Miller, A.H., Condor, 31, 1929, pp. 223-224). Unidentified specimens similar in size to the Shoveller, found in both the Academy and Museum material, may be of this species.

Oxyechus vociferus (Miller, *loc. cit.*). Found in Academy pit and Museum pits 16 and 36.

Numenius americanus (Compton, Condor, 36, 1934, pp. 221-222). Found in Academy pit and Museum pits 61, 67 and 37.

Phaeopus hudsonicus (Compton, *loc. cit.*). Found in Academy pit and Museum pit 28.

Limnodromus griseus (Miller, *loc. cit.*). Found in Museum pit 16.

Astur atricapillus (Compton, *loc. cit.*). Found in Museum pit 16.

Asyndesmus lewis (Miller, *loc. cit.*). Found in the Museum collection, pit unknown.

Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, September 18, 1935.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Clark Nutcrackers Invade Southwestern Utah.—Between August 15 and October 1, 1935, there occurred an invasion of Clark Nutcrackers (*Nucifraga columbiana*) into southwestern Utah that was so noticeable as to be observed by many persons who had never seen the species, although it is fairly common in higher portions of this area. The more noteworthy of these observations are here listed.

August 15 to September 15. Large flocks were seen and reported frequently at Cedar Breaks National Monument, and at other points on the Markagunt Plateau within a radius of ten miles, from 9000 to 11,300 feet altitude. One observer estimated 200 individuals in one flock. Before and after the influx an observer would be fortunate to see over 20 individuals in a day.

September 1 to 10. During this period the Nutcracker population of Bryce Canyon National Park was apparently twice as great as normal, and the birds were much tamer than usual. Bryce is 35 miles east of Cedar Breaks and about 2000 feet lower.

September 16 to 21. Several Nutcrackers were seen by Wilbur Long in Zion National Park, in what is known as the "mountain sheep country" at an approximate elevation of 6500 feet. These were the first Nutcrackers seen in the park since 1932.

September 23. A single Nutcracker spent most of the day at the horse corrals, 4275 feet, in Zion Canyon. It was accurately described to the writer by Walter Beatty, cowboy guide, who had never before seen such a bird. These horse corrals are approximately 26 miles south from Cedar Breaks.

September 20 to October 1. At the Blake Ranch, on the south end of the Pine Valley Mountains, a small cornfield was invaded by over 100 Nutcrackers. They ate a considerable quantity of corn, in spite of some shooting by the man in charge of the ranch. He had lived in the vicinity for over 20 years, but had never before seen Nutcrackers. There was none on

the ranch when I visited it on October 11, but I found a few on the 10,000 foot summit of the mountains, apparently resident there. The Blake Ranch is 32 miles west of Zion Canyon.

September 29. At St. George, 2800 feet, a single Nutcracker was seen and collected by Floyd Atkin, a student at Dixie Junior College. St. George is 58 miles southwest of Cedar Breaks, and 14 miles south of the Blake Ranch. It is in the Lower Sonoran Zone.—C. C. PRESNALL, *Zion National Park, Utah, November 2, 1935.*

Some CCC Activities in Yosemite Valley.—It has been said, I believe, that Satan finds work for idle hands to do. Since the CCC army moved into Yosemite Valley many species of bird and beast have reason to believe that Satan has been looking about for idle hands, and with more or less success. With the advent of this army there was inaugurated in Yosemite Valley a clean-up campaign. Dead trees were cut down, dead wood was removed from living trees, and in and about the New Village much mistletoe was cut from the oaks.

Such work as above mentioned necessarily affected certain species of birds. California Woodpeckers (*Balanosphyra formicivora bairdi*) naturally suffered the most, as much of the work was done in their age-old haunts. Two pairs of Red-shafted Flickers (*Colaptes cafer collaris*) that formerly nested in the oak grove, finding their homes destroyed, moved away. The California Woodpeckers, however, rather than leave their beloved oaks drilled new nesting holes in what appeared to be live wood.

With the removal of dead trees the Hairy Woodpeckers (*Dryobates villosus*) have taken to the telephone poles. By drilling their nesting holes just under the cross arms of the poles, the Hairy Woodpeckers are afforded as much protection from the weather as they would have been under normal conditions with their nest holes on the under sides of leaning cottonwoods.

The Brewer Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) and the Western Tanagers (*Piranga ludoviciana*) that formerly nested in the mistletoe bunches were not greatly affected, as they simply moved back into the conifers to build their nests. The tanager, however, is a poor nest builder and a tanager nest in a pine or fir is not nearly so secure as when placed in a clump of mistletoe.

Woodpeckers, blackbirds and tanagers were forced to seek new nesting sites, a matter of great inconvenience, perhaps, but not necessarily fatal to their cause, for, after all, other nesting sites were to be found. But what about the Sparrow Hawks, the small owls, and such small mammals as chickaree and flying squirrel that commonly nest in old woodpecker holes? Will these animals preempt by force of arms the newly drilled nesting cavities of the woodpeckers or will they seek a land beyond the reach of CCC activities?

And then there is the question of food supply. Every dead tree and branch cut down restricts the feeding range of some certain bird. Also the removal of mistletoe will force the bluebirds and other berry-feeding birds to seek new pastures.

If Satan, or the landscape engineers, would just go a step farther and add a bird box to the landscape every time a tree is cut down, they would make the landscape even more artificially attractive and at the same time do the birds a good turn. Of course the bird boxes should be made of glass! A glass bird box hung low would have high educational value, for then the inquisitive visitor to the Park could learn in intimate detail of the family affairs of nesting birds. And too, exotic berry-bearing shrubs might be introduced in artistic groupings to compensate for the missing mistletoe berries!

Real naturalists might not approve of such a program, but real naturalists are few and the people are many. Surely the National Parks are for all of the people and so why not make them as "attractive" as possible, now that the devil is finding so many idle hands.—CHAS. W. MICHAEL, *Yosemite, California, June 17, 1935.*

Avian Ocean Hitch-hikers.—On May 25, 1935, the Iota Kappa Nu Society of the Los Angeles Junior College chartered a small boat for an excursion to Catalina Island to observe birds. En route to the island and about one-half mile from San Pedro, we observed a San Diego Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia cooperi*) flying westward about twenty-five yards from the starboard side of the boat. We watched it for some time and noted that it gradually approached the boat and finally perched half-way up on the rope ladder leading to the top of the mast. It was content to ride for the major part of the trip, alternating its perch at intervals between the top of the mast and the rope ladder. When we were within half a mile of Avalon, it left the boat and continued its flight toward the island.

During the rest of the day we observed several Song Sparrows in and about the shrubbery at the Catalina Aviary and at other points near Avalon. In the evening, about 6 p. m., upon returning to the Hotel Saint Catherine float where our boat was waiting, one lone Song Sparrow (race?) was observed hopping about near the end of the pier. Perhaps it was our "hitch-hiker." Who